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(54) Title: PATHOGENICITY DETERMINANTS WHICH CAN BE USED AS TARGETS FOR DEVELOPING MEANS FOR PREVENTING AND CONTROLLING BACTERIAL INFECTIONS AND/OR SYSTEMIC DISSEMINATION

(57) Abstract: The invention relates to a method for identifying and selecting a gene required for the proliferation *in vivo* of a pathogenic microorganism, comprising :- using a strain of the pathogenic microorganism, - generating mutants for inactivation in the genes encoding these factors, - determining the virulence of these mutants on an experimental model of infection, and their effect on enteric colonization in an axenic mouse model, and- selecting the bacterial genes essential for resistance to serum *in vitro*, and essential, in the host, for dissemination in the serum. Application to the screening of compounds which inhibit the products of the genes identified, and to the inhibition *in vitro* of the proliferation of a pathogenic microorganism in serum.

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Pathogenicity determinants which can be used as targets for developing means for preventing and controlling bacterial infections and/or systemic dissemination

The invention relates to pathogenicity determinants which can be used as targets for developing means for preventing and controlling bacterial infections and/or systemic dissemination.

5

Current treatments for infectious diseases of bacterial origin are based on the inhibition of essential bacterial targets *in vitro* using antibiotics. These targets are conserved in many bacterial species and make it possible to treat various types of infection. However, broad-spectrum antibiotics are active on the host's commensal flora, which promotes the acquisition and transfer of mechanisms of resistance to these antibiotics, hence a limiting of the effectiveness of current treatments with antibiotics. A need therefore exists for novel antibacterial treatments.

In this regard, the invention provides a novel strategy, the aim of which is to specifically target pathogenic bacteria without significantly altering their growth at their portal of entry into the host organism, where they are in a situation of commensalism. These pathogens are in particular the bacteria responsible for serious systemic infections, such as *E.coli*, in general *Enterobacteria*, *Pseudomonas*, *Acinetobacter*, *Moraxella* and *Neisseria* and, for the gram positives, the bacteria of the genus *Staphylococcus*, *Enterococcus* and *Streptococcus*.

It is known, specifically, that the bacteria responsible for serious infections are capable of growth in the presence of serum and are resistant to the bactericidal action of

30

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complement. This resistance allows dissemination of the infection, via the blood, to the various tissues of the host's body.

5 The ability of bacteria to grow in human serum is due to different pathogenicity/virulence factors. Among those frequently cited, mention will be made of the physical barrier, represented by the capsule, for access of complement to the bacterial membrane, the sialic acids of the capsule or  
10 of the O antigen which promote binding of factor H to c3b, and particular surface proteins such as PorA (*Neisseria gonorrhoeae*), YadA (*Yersinia pestis*) or protein M (*Streptococcus pyogenes*), which bind factor H, all these factors preventing complement activation.

15 Other proteins expressed or bound by the pathogens have proved to be important for resistance to complement and cause cleavage of complement factors or inhibit their binding to the surface of the bacterium (Rautemaa R.; Meri S., *Microbes and*  
20 *Infection* 1999, 1:785:794).

The lipopolysaccharide (LPS) of gram-negative bacteria is known to be a virulence factor, but the role of its various constituents on the resistance to serum has not been  
25 established for all bacterial species. For example, in some studies in *E.coli*, the O antigen is considered to be determinant (Burns S.M. Hull S.I. *Infect Immun*, 1998, Sept 66(9):4244-53); in other studies, the O antigen is thought to be less determinant than the capsular antigens for resistance  
30 to serum (Russo T. et al., *Infect Immun*, 1995, Apr. 63(4):1263-9). Furthermore, the importance of these factors on intestinal colonization is unknown.

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The inventors have carried out a systematic analysis of mutants for inactivation of the genes required for surface polysaccharide synthesis, and have demonstrated, in *Escherichia coli* strains responsible for extra-intestinal infections, EXPEC, which genes are essential for the resistance to serum and the dissemination in the blood. These results are based on the study of the effect of mutations on virulence and intestinal colonization in an animal model.

10 The invention is therefore directed towards a novel methodology for defining the targets required for virulence, and not essential *in vitro*, and thus providing novel anti-infectious agents specific for pathogenic bacteria, in particular for extra-intestinal *E.coli*, responsible for severe  
15 infections, as well as Gram positive strains, such as *Streptococcus agalactiae*. It is also directed towards the products of the genes required for resistance in the serum and virulence *in vivo*.

20 The method of the invention for identifying and selecting a gene required for the proliferation *in vivo* of a pathogenic microorganism is characterized in that it comprises:

- using a strain of the pathogenic microorganism,
- generating mutants for inactivation in the genes encoding  
25 the virulence factors,
- determining the virulence of these mutants on an experimental model of infection and their effect on enteric colonization in an axenic mouse model, and
- selecting the bacterial genes essential for resistance to  
30 serum *in vitro* and essential, in the host, for dissemination in the blood.

The pathogenic microorganism is in particular an EXPEC strain of *E.coli* or a *Streptococcus agalactiae* strain.

5 The virulence gene inactivation mutants used in this method fall within the scope of the invention.

Said mutants are characterized by the following properties : they are sensitive to serum; they are avirulent in mice model and they are able to colonize gut of axenic mice.

10

The invention is also directed towards the pathogenicity or virulence factors encoded by nucleic acids thus identified, which are necessary for the dissemination via the blood, but do not significantly affect the intestinal or mucosal  
15 colonization of pathogenic bacteria such as *E.coli*, *Salmonella typhimurium*, *Klebsiella pneumoniae*, *Yersinia pestis*, *Serratia marcescens*, *Haemophilus influenzae*, *Pasteurella multocida*, *Vibrio cholerae*, *Pseudomonas aeruginosa*, *Acetivobacter*, *Moraxella catarrhalis*, *Burkholderia pseudomallei*, *Neisseria meningitidis*, *Neisseria gonorrhoeae*, *Campylobacter jejuni*,  
20 *Helicobacter pylori*, *Bacteroides fragilis*, *Clostridium acetobutylicum*, *Mycobacterium tuberculosis*, *Streptococcus pyogenes*, *Streptococcus agalactiae*, *Staphylococcus aureus* and *Enterococcus*.

25

The invention is in particular directed towards the pathogenicity or virulence targets encoded by isolated or purified nucleic acids having sequences SEQ ID Nos 16-30.

30 The pathogenicity or virulence targets of the invention are more particularly encoded by nucleic acids having sequences SEQ ID Nos 16,17,19-30.

Said nucleic acids are cDNAs or RNAs.

It particularly relates to pathogenicity or virulence targets encoded by nucleic acids of *E.coli*.

In another embodiment of the invention, the pathogenicity or virulence targets are encoded by nucleic acids of  
5 *Streptococcus agalactiae*.

The invention is also directed towards the vectors comprising at least a nucleic acid coding for a pathogenicity or virulence target such as above defined and also the host cells  
10 containing at least one vector under the control of a suitable promoter.

The invention is also directed towards pathogenicity or virulence factors corresponding to isolated or purified  
15 polypeptides or peptides having one of the amino acid sequences SEQ ID Nos 1-15.

It more particularly relates to pathogenicity or virulence factors corresponding to isolated or purified polypeptides or  
20 peptides having the amino acid sequences SEQ ID Nos 1,2,4-15.

The antibodies which are capable of binding specifically to the peptides and polypeptides corresponding to said factors are also part of the invention.

25 These nucleic acids and peptides or polypeptides constitute targets for identifying compounds with a specific inhibitory effect on the systemic dissemination of a bacterial infection, and not on mucosal colonization or, for enterobacteria, on  
30 intestinal colonization, which makes it possible to preserve the commensal flora and to avoid the selection of resistance to the compounds.

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The invention is thus directed towards the method for inhibiting the proliferation of a pathogenic microorganism in serum, comprising the use of an effective amount of a compound capable of inhibiting the activity, or of reducing the amount, of a nucleic acid as defined above, or of a compound capable of inhibiting the activity of a polypeptide or of a peptide as defined above.

It is also directed towards a method for screening compounds capable of inhibiting the expression of these nucleic acids or of the corresponding polypeptides and peptides, comprising bringing them into contact with the test compound, demonstrating the possible effect of the compound on their activity, and selecting the active compounds.

It is also directed towards a method for screening compounds capable of inhibiting the biochemical and/or enzyme activity of the polypeptides and peptides expressed by said nucleic acids.

The compounds thus selected are used, in accordance with the invention, to produce medicinal products for inhibiting a bacterial infection, in particular an extra-intestinal infection in the case of enterobacteria.

The invention thus provides a novel strategy and novel means for preventing or treating systemic bacterial dissemination, bacteraemia and septicaemia.

Other characteristics and advantages of the invention will be given in the following examples, with reference to Figures 1 to 3 and tables 1 to 5, said figures representing, respectively,

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- Figure 1, the growth of S26 and of the mutant pg23 in serum,
- Figure 2, the growth of S26 and of the mutant pg23 in de complemented serum, and
- 5 - Figure 3, the virulence of the DltD mutant of *S.agalactiae*.

**Example 1 : gene corresponding to SEQ ID N°23:**

**1- Inactivation of the gene of interest**

10

The general strategy, based on a recombination system, consists in interrupting a gene, by allelic recombination, with a gene for selection (a gene for resistance to antibiotic in the present case) carried by a linear DNA fragment.

15

Initially, a plasmid is introduced into the bacterium (for example *E.coli*), so as to introduce, in trans, the proteins which will induce the recombination. The plasmid carrying an ampicillin resistance gene is thermosensitive (30°C), which  
20 will make it possible to easily eliminate it after use in the bacterium.

The plasmid is introduced into the bacterium by electroporation. After electroporation, the ampicillin-resistant bacteria will be those which have integrated the  
25 plasmid, and will be selected. This step is entirely carried out at 30°C, the permissive temperature for the plasmid.

**Synthesis of the PCR fragment specific for the target gene**  
30 **(pg23)**

A PCR is carried out, on a matrix plasmid carrying the selection gene (chloramphenicol resistance), using primers pg23P1 and pg23P2 of sequences SEQ ID No 31 and SEQ ID No 32, respectively, made up of two parts:



in 3': 20 bp homologous to the selection gene (chloramphenicol resistance): P1 or P2

in 5': 40 bp homologous to the target gene (*pg23*): H1 or H2

*pg23*P1: 5'  
TCGTGCAGGCCAACCTGCACAACAGAGTGATTGATTAAACGTGTAGGCTGGAGCTGCTTC  
 3'

H1

P1

*Pg23*P2: 5'  
CAGGGTGCTGGCGCTCACCATTTCGGGAGACAGCTTAGACACATATGAATATCCTCCTTA  
 3'

H2

P2

5

A DNA fragment consisting of the selection gene (CAT: Chloramphenicol Acetyl Transferase) flanked by the regions homologous to the target gene H1 and H2 is thus obtained.

#### 10 Step for inactivation of the target gene

The bacterium containing the plasmid is cultured in LB medium at 30°C with shaking, in the presence of 100 mM ampicillin and of 1 mM L-arabinose so as to induce the recombination system. When the bacteria are in the exponential growth phase (OD<sub>600nm</sub>=0.5), the culture is stopped, and the bacteria are harvested and made electrocompetent. The PCR product specific for the target gene (*pg23*) is introduced into the bacterium by electroporation. The bacteria are then cultured in a non-selective rich medium (SOC medium) at 37°C with shaking for 2 hours, and then plated out onto selective LB agar medium. After 18 hours at 37°C, only the bacteria which have integrated the gene for resistance to the antibiotic will have grown.

#### 25 Verification of the insertion of the resistance cassette

In order to verify the insertion of the resistance cassette, PCR reactions are carried out directly using colonies. Three

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pairs of primers are used: a pair in which the primers FR1 and FR2 frame the target gene, and two pairs using a primer located inside the resistance cassette, the other primer being located either upstream or downstream of the target gene.

5

Isolation of the mutated bacteria and elimination of the plasmid

The colonies thus verified by PCR are successively re-isolated on selected medium, twice on non-selective medium and a final  
10 time on selective medium at 37°C. Finally, the selected bacteria are tested for sensitivity to ampicillin, which reflects the absence of the plasmid. Three clones are thus chosen for each type of mutant.

15 2 - Test for the mutant with respect to resistance to the bactericidal activity of serum

The serum used is of human origin. In each experiment, growth was also effected for the wild-type strain (S26, clinical  
20 isolate of *E.coli* particularly resistant to serum and virulent in mice) and a strain, ECOR4, lacking a capsule and lipopolysaccharide (LPS). The growths were effected in triplicate and in two different sera. The growths were effected in parallel in complemented and de complemented (30  
25 min at 56°C) serum in order to verify that the effect observed was due only to the lytic action of complement.

Using a preculture of two hours in RPMI reference minimum medium, the bacteria are brought into contact with 100% serum,  
30 at a starting inoculum of  $10^4$ cfu/ml. Counts are then performed at times 0, 1 and 4 hours, by plating various dilutions out on LB agar medium in the presence or absence of antibiotic. After 18 hours at 37°C, the bacteria are counted and a growth curve

- 10 -

is produced from the results obtained. These results are given in Figures 1 and 2.

In this example, the mutant  $\Delta$ pg23 exhibits considerable sensitivity to the serum: a difference from the wild-type strain of more than 2 log at 1 hour and of more than 4 log at 4 hours is in fact observed. In addition, the results obtained in de complemented serum and with the strain ECOR4 in serum indicate that the effect observed is indeed due to the bactericidal action of complement.

### 3 - Study of the virulence in a mouse animal model

#### Preparation of the inoculum

The wild-type mutated bacteria are isolated from the strain, stored at  $-80^{\circ}\text{C}$ , on an LB agar dish with or without antibiotic, and incubated at  $37^{\circ}\text{C}$  for 18 hours. A preculture is prepared in liquid medium. Using a 1/10th dilution in 10 ml of LB, the culture is regrown at  $37^{\circ}\text{C}$  with shaking for 2 hours. After culturing for 2 hours, the  $\text{OD}_{600\text{nm}}$  is measured and various dilutions are prepared in physiological saline, so as to obtain the desired inoculum. For the wild-type strain S26, the  $\text{LD}_{50}$  corresponds to an inoculum of  $5 \times 10^5$  cfu/mouse and the  $\text{LD}_{100}$  corresponds to an inoculum of  $1 \times 10^6$  cfu/mouse.

#### Virulence test

The mice (6-week-old Balb/c) are given an intraperitoneal injection and the bacterial solution injected represents a volume of 100  $\mu\text{l}$ . Five mice are used per dose. For S26 $\Delta$ pg23, 4 inoculums were tested and the survival rate was measured after 24 and 48 hours post-injection. In each experiment, the study was carried out in parallel with the wild-type strain, the  $\text{LD}_{50}$  of which is  $5 \times 10^5$  cfu/mouse.

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The mutant S26 $\Delta$ pg23, injected at a dose equal to 10 times the LD<sub>100</sub>, causes no mortality, the mutation of the pg23 gene in the *E.coli* strain K1 S26 is therefore responsible for a considerable decrease in the virulence.

#### 4 - Study of the intestinal colonization in an axenic mouse animal model

The entire experiment is carried out in a sterile environment, with sterile instruments, in an isolator, and the mice are given sterile food.

##### Mice

These are 6- to 8-week-old axenic female mice of the C3H/He J line.

Four animals are used per bacterial strain.

##### Preparation of the inoculum

The wild-type and mutated bacteria are isolated from the strain, stored at -80°C, on an LB agar dish with or without antibiotic, and incubated at 37°C for 18 hours. After culturing the strain in liquid medium, various dilutions are prepared in physiological saline, so as to obtain an inoculum of 10<sup>7</sup> cfu/ml.

##### Colonization test

The bacterial inoculation is carried out orally. During the 24 hours preceding inoculation, the mice are deprived of water. They are then given a bacterial solution at 10<sup>7</sup> cfu/ml to drink for 4 hours. The volume of drink is measured at 0 and 4 hours, and, on average, a mouse absorbs 5 ml of this bacterial solution. The faeces are then sampled at various times, and a

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bacterial count is performed, taking the faeces up in physiological saline and plating out various dilutions on an LB agar dish with and without antibiotic.

The results are given in table 1 herein below.

5

TABLE 1

Time in hours	CFU/mg faeces	
	S26wt	S26 $\Delta$ pg23
0	0	0
4	6.85E+05	1.65E+05
25	1.86E+06	2.84E+06
118	8.34E+06	7.94E+06
456	4.14E+06	6.64E+06

For the wild-type strain S26, as well as for the mutant S26 $\Delta$ pg23, colonization in the intestine was stably established. No difference is observed between the wild-type strain and the mutant  $\Delta$ pg23. The colonization is confirmed on the final day by removing the intestine and counting the bacteria after grinding of this organ.

## 15 5 - Cloning and expression of the selected polypeptide

The nucleic acid encoding the polypeptide is cloned into a prokaryotic expression vector such as pET-14b with an N-terminal poly-his tag, according to conventional cloning methods.

The recombinant plasmid is then used to transform the *E.coli* strain BL21. The transformed cells are selected in the presence of ampicillin and the colonies are isolated. They are then cultured in the presence of IPTG in order to induce expression of the protein. The clones producing the protein

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are cultured and the total proteins are extracted by cell lysis. The recombinant protein is purified with a histidine tag affinity column, according to the manufacturer's protocol.

- 5 The protein thus obtained is purified and used *in vitro* to measure its enzyme activity.

**Example 2 : serum sensitivity and LD<sub>50</sub> determination of mutant strains in the mice model of infection**

10

Said mutants were also compared to the wild type S26 *E.coli* strain for LD<sub>50</sub> determination in the mice model of infection.

As presented in Table 2 below, the number of colony forming unit (cfu) counted after culture for four hours in serum was  
15 higher in the wild type (wt) S26 strain than in mutants indicating that mutants were sensitive to serum killing.

All the different mutants were either much less virulent in mice than the wild type strain as shown by the increase in LD<sub>50</sub> (lethal dose 50), or completely avirulent as no dose killing  
20 50% of mice could be reach with the mutants.

Table 2

5 Serum sensitivity and virulence attenuation for *E. coli* K1 S26 mutants in the proteins corresponding to sequence number 1 to 13

Sequence Number	Serum sensitivity # $\Delta$ log (cfu/ml serum)	Virulence attenuation  * $\Delta$ log (LD50)
1	+4	avirulent <sup>a</sup>
2	+4	+1
3	+5	+1
4	+4	+1
5	+4	+2,5
6	+4	+0,5
7	+4	+0,5
8	+4	avirulent <sup>a</sup>
9	+1	avirulent <sup>a</sup>
10	+2	avirulent <sup>a</sup>
11	+4	+2
12	+4	+2
13	+4	avirulent <sup>a</sup>

avirulent<sup>a</sup>: no dose killing 50% of mice could be reach with that mutant.

10 #  $\Delta$ log (cfu/ml serum) = log (cfu S26wt / ml serum) - log (cfu S26 mutant / ml serum)

values obtained after 4 hours in serum

\*  $\Delta$ log (LD<sub>50</sub>) = log (LD<sub>50</sub> S26mutant) - log (LD<sub>50</sub> S26wt)

values obtained 48 hours after inoculation

15

The mutants of genes encoding the target proteins corresponding to sequences 1 to 13, which were attenuated for virulence, were still able to colonize the intestine of axenic mice as shown by persistence of bacteria in the faeces of the

- 15 -

animals over a period of eight days. These results are presented in Table 3.

Table 3

5

Gut colonization for *E. coli* K1 S26 wt and mutants in the proteins corresponding to sequence number 1 to 13 in an axenic mouse model

	Sequence number	Gut colonization	
		cfu/mg faeces	
		Day 1	Day 8
S26 wt.		* $1,34.10^6$	* $5,29.10^6$
S26 mutants	1	$9,73.10^5$	$2,51.10^6$
	2	$1,02.10^6$	$6,85.10^6$
	3	$1,44.10^6$	$3,48.10^6$
	4	$1,24.10^6$	$1,65.10^6$
	5	$1,15.10^5$	$4,64.10^5$
	6	$9,96.10^5$	$3,51.10^6$
	7	$2,40.10^4$	$2,51.10^6$
	8	$2,84.10^6$	$6,64.10^6$
	9	$1,80.10^6$	$1,51.10^6$
	10	$9,62.10^5$	$2,24.10^6$
	11	$2,72.10^5$	$8,56.10^5$
	12	$3,13.10^5$	$9,09.10^5$
	13	$5,91.10^5$	$1,67.10^6$

\* mean values based upon six experiments

10

The bacteria colonizing the intestine of axenic mice after eight days were characterized to verify that they correspond to the mutant strains that were inoculated orally.

15 The bacteria recovered from the faeces of animals had a phenotype of chloramphenicol resistance and serum sensitivity, the chloramphenicol acetyl transferase gene inserted during the mutagenesis could also be detected by PCR.



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Mutations in genes encoding target proteins (sequence number 1 to 13) were still present in bacteria colonizing the intestine of axenic mice as shown in Table 4.

5

Table 4

Characterization of bacteria recovered from axenic mice after intestinal colonization by mutants in genes encoding proteins sequence 1 to 13

10

Sequence	Serum sensitivity	* Mutant
Number	# $\Delta\text{Log}$ (cfu/ml serum)	genotype
1	+5	Cm <sup>R</sup> , PCR +
2	+4	Cm <sup>R</sup>
3	+5	Cm <sup>R</sup>
4	+3	Cm <sup>R</sup>
5	+5	Cm <sup>R</sup> , PCR +
6	+2	Cm <sup>R</sup>
7	+2	Cm <sup>R</sup>
8	Nd	Cm <sup>R</sup>
9	+2	Cm <sup>R</sup>
10	+3	Cm <sup>R</sup>
11	+5	Cm <sup>R</sup> , PCR +
12	+4	Cm <sup>R</sup> , PCR +
13	+4	Cm <sup>R</sup> , PCR +

#  $\Delta\text{Log}$  (cfu/ml serum) =  $\log$  (cfu S26wt / ml serum) -  $\log$  (cfu S26mutant / ml serum)

values obtained after 4 hours in serum

15 \*The presence of the gene encoding the chloramphenicol acetyltransferase, inactivating the genes encoding the proteins of sequence number 1 to 13, has been verified by PCR and chloramphenicol resistance (Cm<sup>R</sup>).

20 In conclusion, the results presented in this example demonstrate that genes encoding the enzymes involved in the LPS inner core metabolism are not essential in *E.coli* strains

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for colonization, but are necessary for resistance to complement and virulence *in vivo*.

They represent as such good targets for inhibitors that will selectively block bacterial replication in blood tissue.

Example 2: mutants of protein SEQ ID N°14

The present invention relates to novel mutant strain of Group B *Streptococcus* (GBS) (*Streptococcus agalactiae*). In this particular example, the identified targets correspond to gene sequence number 29 encoding a protein sequence number 14 involved in incorporation of D-alanine residues into the cell wall-associated lipoteichoic acids (LTAs) in Gram + bacteria.

The gene sequence number 29 is homologous to the *dltD* gene found in other gram positive bacteria and is the last gene of the *dlt* operon.

The Gram + bacterial model used is the pathogenic strain *S. agalactiae* NEM316. *S. agalactiae* is a bacterium commonly found in the human flora and is phylogenetically close to Gram + bacteria responsible for nosocomial septicemia.

The virulence of GBS mutants in the *dlt* operon is strongly impaired in mouse and newborn rat models.

Interestingly, the loss of virulence is presumably due to an increased sensitivity to antimicrobial cationic peptides, such as defensins, which are produced by numerous cells types in particular phagocytes.

The use of mutant of *S. agalactiae*, in which the *dltD* gene have been inactivated, demonstrates that the product of that gene is a good target for the development of inhibitors of virulence of *S. agalactiae* as well as against other Gram + pathogens.

Construction of a DltD mutant in wild type *S. agalactiae* NEM316:

A mutant in the *dltD* gene was constructed from *S. agalactiae* NEM316 strain by inserting, using double cross-over, a kanamycin resistance cassette.

To construct *DltD* mutant of *S. agalactiae* NEM316, a promoterless and terminatorless kanamycin resistance cassette *aphA-3* within DNA segment internal to *dltD* were inserted in the same direction of transcription. This was done by ligation after digestion with appropriate enzymes, of PCR products obtained by using the primers of SEQ ID N° 33 and 34 respectively,

SEQ ID N°33 : 5'-CAGTGAATTCGCGTTGACGAAGGCAGG-3', and  
SEQ ID N°34 : 5'-GACGGGTACCATACCTATCGTAGGTTG-3', and  
the primers of SEQ ID N° 35 and SEQ ID N°36, respectively,  
SEQ ID N°35 : 5'-AGTGGATCCACTACACAGGGCTTGATC-3', and  
SEQ ID N°36 : 5'-GACCTGCAGCCCTTGATTATCCCTATCC-3'.

A 0.4 kb *dltD* EcoRI-KpnI fragment was inserted into the thermosensitive shuttle vector pG+host5 $\Omega$ *aphA-3* (Biswas et al., 1993, J Bacteriol. 175:3628-3635) containing the kanamycin resistance cassette to generate pG1 $\Omega$  EKaphA-3. A 0.8 kb closely spaced *dltD* region BamHI-PstI fragment was inserted into pG1 $\Omega$  EKaphA-3 to generate pG1 $\Omega$  EKaphA-3BP. The resulting vector was introduced by electroporation into NEM316. Transformants were selected on Todd-Hewitt (TH) agar plates containing 10 mg l<sup>-1</sup> erythromycin at 30°C. Allelic exchange was obtained at the non-permissive temperature (42°C) by homologous recombination using a two-step procedure described previously (Biswas et al., 1993).

A double-crossover event between the homologous sequences resulted in nucleotides deletion and insertion of the kanamycine cassette. Recombinant bacteria containing this insertion deletion were selected for kanamycine resistance.

This chromosome disruption in the *dltD* gene was confirmed in one of the recombinant clones by sequencing the nucleotides of the mutant.

- 5 Sensitivity of the wild type *S. agalactiae* strain NEM316 and the DltD mutant to various antimicrobial peptides :

10 The sensitivity of wild type *S. agalactiae* NEM316 and DltD mutant to cationic antimicrobial peptides was measured by using a disk diffusion methods. The 2 strains were grown on blood agar plates and incubated for 18 hours at 37°C. Each strain was tested using colistin (50 µg) and polymyxin (10 µg) disks. Sensitivity or resistance of NEM316 strain and the DltD mutant to each compound was determined by the size of the growth inhibition area around disk.

20 The DltD mutant exhibited an increased sensitivity to the cationic antimicrobial peptides colistin, and polymyxin B as shown in table 5.

Table 5

Results of sensitivity to colistin and polymyxin B of control strains *S. agalactiae* NEM316 and DltD mutant

	Disc content (µg)	Inhibition area (mm)	
		NEM316	Mutant DltD
Colistin	50	0	14
Polymyxin B	10	0	14

#### Study of virulence in a mouse animal model

30 We studied the role of DltD in the virulence of *S. agalactiae*. Groups of ten mice (six week-old Balb/c) were inoculated intravenously with  $5 \times 10^7$  bacteria. At 2 days post infection, 80% of mice infected with the wild type strain NEM316 died and

- 20 -

only two deaths were recorded for mice infected with the DltD mutant. Figure 1 illustrates the results obtained with the DltD defective GBS mutant. The result demonstrates that the product of the dltD gene is necessary for virulence of GBS in mice.

5

- 21 -

## CLAIMS

1. Method for identifying and selecting a gene required for the proliferation *in vivo* of a pathogenic microorganism, comprising :

- using a strain of the pathogenic microorganism,
- 5    - generating mutants for inactivation in the genes encoding these factors,
- determining the virulence of these mutants on an experimental model of infection, and their effect on enteric colonization in an axenic mouse model, and
- 10   - selecting the bacterial genes essential for resistance to serum *in vitro*, and essential, in the host, for dissemination in the serum.

2. Method according to Claim 1, characterized by the use of  
15 an *E.coli* strain EXPEC or a *Streptococcus agalactiae* strain.

3. Mutant nucleic acids for inactivation of the virulence genes as implemented in the method according to Claim 1 or 2.

20 4. Mutant nucleic acids which are sensitive to serum; avirulent in mice model and able to colonize gut of axenic mice.

25 5. Pathogenicity or virulence targets encoded by isolated or purified nucleic acids corresponding to one of the nucleotide sequences SEQ ID Nos 16-30.

6. Pathogenicity or virulence targets according to claim 5, wherein said nucleic acids correspond to one of the nucleotide  
30 sequences SEQ ID Nos 16,17,19-30.

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7. Pathogenicity or virulence targets according to claim 5 or 6, wherein said nucleic acids are cDNAs.

8. Pathogenicity or virulence targets according to claim 5 or 6, wherein said nucleic acids are RNAs.

9. Pathogenicity or virulence targets according to any one of claims 6 to 8, wherein said nucleic acids correspond to the nucleic acids of pathogenic organisms comprising  
10 *Escherichia coli*, *Salmonella typhimurium*, *Klebsiella pneumoniae*, *Yersinia pestis*, *Serratia marcescens*, *Haemophilus influenzae*, *Pasteurella multocida*, *Vibrio cholerae*, *Pseudomonas aeruginosa*, *Acetivobacter*, *Moraxella catarrhalis*,  
15 *Burkholderia pseudomallei*, *Neisseria meningitidis*, *Neisseria gonorrhoeae*, *Campylobacter jejuni*, *Helicobacter pylori*,  
*Bacteroides fragilis*, *Clostridium acetobutylicum*,  
*Mycobacterium tuberculosis*, *Streptococcus pyogenes*,  
20 *Streptococcus agalactiae*, *Staphylococcus aureus* and *Enterococcus*.

10. Pathogenicity or virulence targets according to claim 9 corresponding to nucleic acids of *E.coli* or *Streptococcus agalactiae*.

25 11. Vectors comprising at least one pathogenicity or virulence target according to any one of claims 5 to 10.

12. Host cells containing at least one vector according to Claim 11.

30 13. Products of expression of the pathogenicity or virulence targets according to any one of claims 5 to 10.

14. Isolated or purified peptides characterized in that they correspond to one of the amino acid sequences SEQ ID Nos. 1 to 15.

5 15. Isolated or purified peptides according to claim 14 characterized in that they correspond to one of the amino acid sequences SEQ ID Nos 1,2,4-15.

10 16. Antibodies capable of binding specifically to the peptides according to any one of Claims 13 to 15.

17. Method for inhibiting *in vitro* the proliferation of a pathogenic microorganism in serum, comprising the use of an effective amount of a compound capable of inhibiting the activity, or of reducing the amount, of pathogenicity or virulence target according to any one of claims 6 to 10, or of inhibiting the activity of a peptide according to Claim 15.

20 18. Method for screening compounds capable of inhibiting the expression of the pathogenicity or virulence target according to any one of claims 6 to 10, or peptides according to claim 15, comprising bringing into contact with the test compound, demonstrating the possible effect of the compound on their activity, and selecting the active compounds.

25 19. Method for screening compounds capable of inhibiting the biochemical and/or enzyme activity of the peptides expressed by the pathogenicity or virulence target according to any one of claims 6 to 10.

30 20. Use of the compounds selected according to Claim 19, for developing medicinal products for inhibiting a bacterial infection, in particular an extra-intestinal infection in the case of enterobacteria.



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FIGURE 1

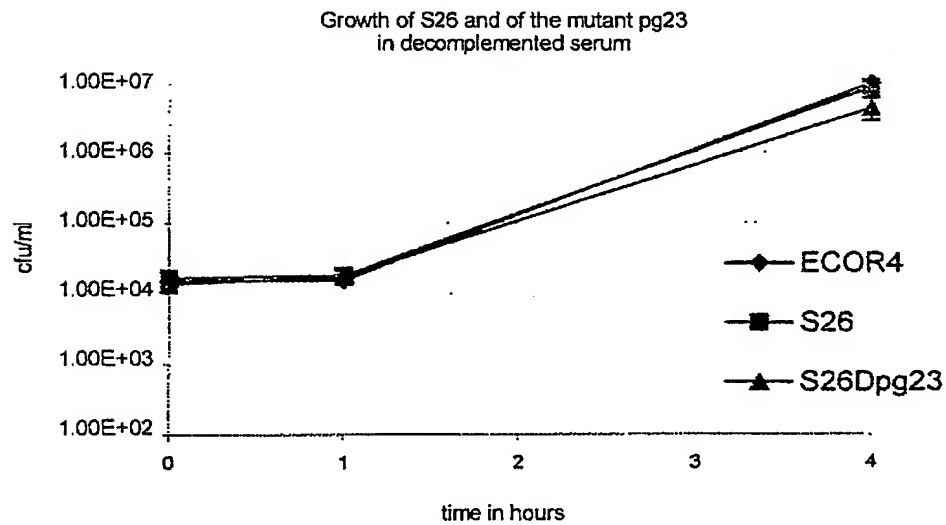
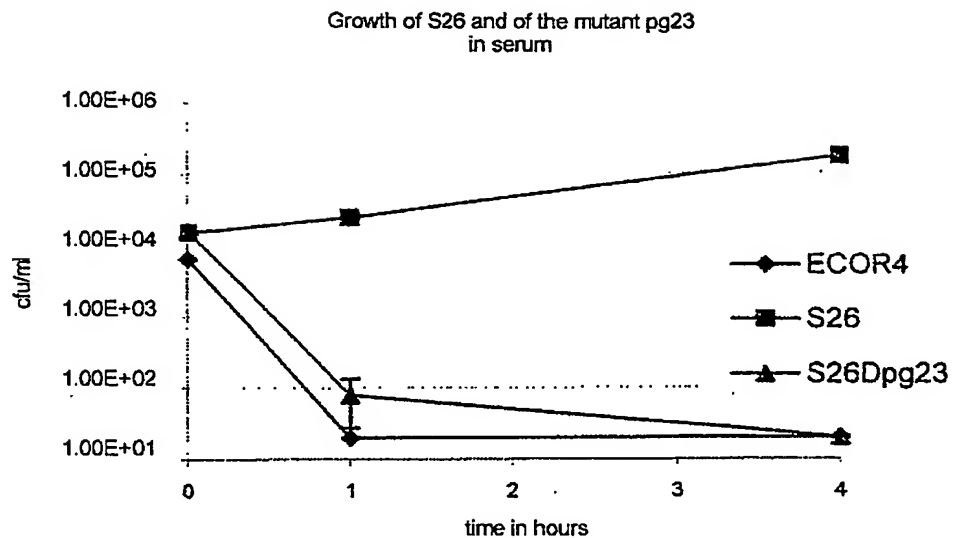


FIGURE 2

2/2

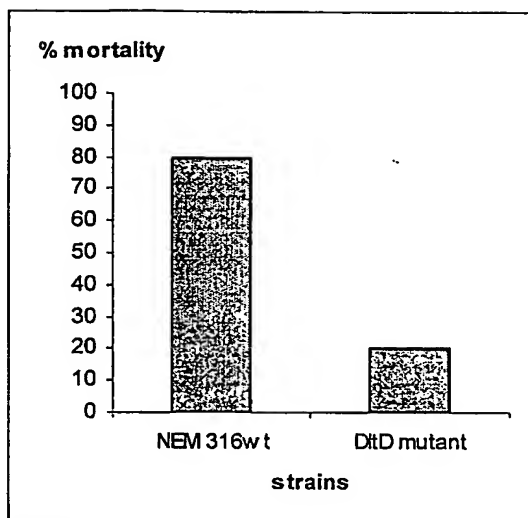


FIGURE 3

## SEQUENCE LISTING

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Glu Tyr Ala Val Phe Leu His Ala Thr Thr Arg Asp Asp Lys His Trp  
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 Asp Gly Thr Pro Trp Ser Thr Asp Lys Asp Gly Ile Ile Met Cys Leu  
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Gly Ala His Ser Gly Glu His Ala Met Val Leu Pro Tyr Gly Ser Thr  
 340 345 350

Met Arg Ala Val Leu Glu Lys Val Arg Pro Asn Ser Met Ser Gln Met  
 355 360 365

Asn Ala Val Gln Leu Tyr Arg Pro Ser Val Ala Gln Arg Gln Lys Glu  
 370 375 380

Met Leu Asn Leu Ser Leu Gln Lys Leu Glu Glu Ala Ser Leu Ser Ala  
 385 390 395 400

Gln Ser Ser Thr Lys Glu Glu Ala Ser Leu Arg Met Gln Glu Ala Gln  
 405 410 415

Leu Ile Ser Arg Phe Val Ala Lys Ala Arg Thr Val Val Pro Lys Gly  
 420 425 430

Glu Val Ile Leu Asn Glu Ser Asn Ile Asp Ser Val Leu Leu Glu Asp  
 435 440 445

Gly Asp Val Ile Asn Ile Pro Glu Lys Thr Ser Leu Val Met Val His  
 450 455 460

Gly Glu Val Leu Phe Pro Asn Ala Val Ser Trp Gln Lys Gly Met Thr  
 465 470 475 480

Thr Glu Asp Tyr Ile Glu Lys Cys Gly Gly Leu Thr Gln Lys Ser Gly  
 485 490 495

Asn Ala Arg Ile Ile Val Ile Arg Gln Asn Gly Ala Ala Val Asn Ala  
 500 505 510

Glu Asp Val Asp Ser Leu Lys Pro Gly Asp Glu Ile Met Val Leu Pro  
 515 520 525

Lys Tyr Glu Ser Lys Asn Ile Glu Val Thr Arg Gly Ile Ser Thr Ile  
 530 535 540

Leu Tyr Gln Leu Ala Val Gly Ala Lys Val Ile Leu Ser Leu



545

550

555

<210> 10  
 <211> 207  
 <212> PRT  
 <213> Escherichia coli  
 <400> 10

Met Ser Lys Lys Leu Ile Ile Phe Gly Ala Gly Gly Phe Ser Lys Ser  
 1 5 10 15

Ile Ile Asp Ser Leu Asn His Lys His Tyr Glu Leu Ile Gly Phe Ile  
 20 25 30

Asp Lys Tyr Lys Ser Gly Tyr His Gln Ser Tyr Pro Ile Leu Gly Asn  
 35 40 45

Asp Ile Ala Asp Ile Glu Asn Lys Asp Asn Tyr Tyr Tyr Phe Ile Gly  
 50 55 60

Ile Gly Lys Pro Ser Thr Arg Lys His Tyr Leu Asn Ile Ile Arg Lys  
 65 70 75 80

His Asn Leu Arg Leu Ile Asn Ile Ile Asp Lys Thr Ala Ile Leu Ser  
 85 90 95

Pro Asn Ile Ile Leu Gly Asp Gly Ile Phe Ile Gly Lys Met Cys Ile  
 100 105 110

Leu Asn Arg Asp Thr Arg Ile His Asp Ala Val Val Ile Asn Thr Arg  
 115 120 125

Ser Leu Ile Glu His Gly Asn Glu Ile Gly Cys Cys Ser Asn Ile Ser  
 130 135 140

Thr Asn Val Val Leu Asn Gly Asp Val Ser Val Gly Glu Glu Thr Phe  
 145 150 155 160

Val Gly Ser Val Thr Val Val Asn Gly Gln Leu Lys Leu Gly Ser Lys  
 165 170 175

Ser Ile Ile Gly Ser Gly Ser Val Val Ile Arg Asn Ile Pro Ser Asn  
 180 185 190

Val Val Val Ala Gly Thr Pro Thr Arg Leu Ile Arg Gly Asn Glu  
 195 200 205

<210> 11  
 <211> 191  
 <212> PRT  
 <213> Escherichia coli  
 <400> 11

Met Ala Lys Ser Val Pro Ala Ile Phe Leu Asp Arg Asp Gly Thr Ile  
1 5 10 15

Asn Val Asp His Gly Tyr Val His Glu Ile Asp Asn Phe Glu Phe Ile  
20 25 30

Asp Gly Val Ile Asp Ala Met Arg Glu Leu Lys Lys Met Gly Phe Ala  
35 40 45

Leu Val Val Val Thr Asn Gln Ser Gly Ile Ala Arg Gly Lys Phe Thr  
50 55 60

Glu Ala Gln Phe Glu Thr Leu Thr Glu Trp Met Asp Trp Ser Leu Ala  
65 70 75 80

Asp Arg Asp Val Asp Leu Asp Gly Ile Tyr Tyr Cys Pro His His Pro  
85 90 95

Gln Gly Ser Val Glu Glu Phe Arg Gln Val Cys Asp Cys Arg Lys Pro  
100 105 110

His Pro Gly Met Leu Leu Ser Ala Arg Asp Tyr Leu His Ile Asp Met  
115 120 125

Ala Ala Ser Tyr Met Val Gly Asp Lys Leu Glu Asp Met Gln Ala Ala  
130 135 140

Val Ala Ala Asn Val Gly Thr Lys Val Leu Val Arg Thr Gly Lys Pro  
145 150 155 160

Ile Thr Pro Glu Ala Glu Asn Ala Ala Asp Trp Val Leu Asn Ser Leu  
165 170 175

Ala Asp Leu Pro Gln Ala Ile Lys Lys Gln Gln Lys Pro Ala Gln  
180 185 190

<210> 12

<211> 310

<212> PRT

<213> Escherichia coli

<400> 12

Met Ile Ile Val Thr Gly Gly Ala Gly Phe Ile Gly Ser Asn Ile Val  
1 5 10 15

Lys Ala Leu Asn Asp Lys Gly Ile Thr Asp Ile Leu Val Val Asp Asn  
20 25 30

Leu Lys Asp Gly Thr Lys Phe Val Asn Leu Val Asp Leu Asn Ile Ala  
35 40 45

Asp Tyr Met Asp Lys Glu Asp Phe Leu Ile Gln Ile Met Ala Gly Glu  
 50 55 60

Glu Phe Gly Asp Val Glu Ala Ile Phe His Glu Gly Ala Cys Ser Ser  
 65 70 75 80

Thr Thr Glu Trp Asp Gly Lys Tyr Met Met Asp Asn Asn Tyr Gln Tyr  
 85 90 95

Ser Lys Glu Leu Leu His Tyr Cys Leu Glu Arg Glu Ile Pro Phe Leu  
 100 105 110

Tyr Ala Ser Ser Ala Ala Thr Tyr Gly Gly Arg Thr Ser Asp Phe Ile  
 115 120 125

Glu Ser Arg Glu Tyr Glu Lys Pro Leu Asn Val Tyr Gly Tyr Ser Lys  
 130 135 140

Phe Leu Phe Asp Glu Tyr Val Arg Gln Ile Leu Pro Glu Ala Asn Ser  
 145 150 155 160

Gln Ile Val Gly Phe Arg Tyr Phe Asn Val Tyr Gly Pro Arg Glu Gly  
 165 170 175

His Lys Gly Ser Met Ala Ser Val Ala Phe His Leu Asn Thr Gln Leu  
 180 185 190

Asn Asn Gly Glu Ser Pro Lys Leu Phe Glu Gly Ser Glu Asn Phe Lys  
 195 200 205

Arg Asp Phe Val Tyr Val Gly Asp Val Ala Asp Val Asn Leu Trp Phe  
 210 215 220

Leu Glu Asn Gly Val Ser Gly Ile Phe Asn Leu Gly Thr Gly Arg Ala  
 225 230 235 240

Glu Ser Phe Gln Ala Val Ala Asp Ala Thr Leu Ala Tyr His Lys Lys  
 245 250 255

Gly Gln Ile Glu Tyr Ile Pro Phe Pro Asp Lys Leu Lys Gly Arg Tyr  
 260 265 270

Gln Ala Phe Thr Gln Ala Asp Leu Thr Asn Leu Arg Ala Ala Gly Tyr  
 275 280 285

Asp Lys Pro Phe Lys Thr Val Ala Glu Gly Val Thr Glu Tyr Met Ala  
 290 295 300

Trp Leu Asn Arg Asp Ala

305

310

<210> 13  
 <211> 477  
 <212> PRT  
 <213> Escherichia coli  
 <400> 13

Met Lys Val Thr Leu Pro Glu Phe Glu Arg Ala Gly Val Met Val Val  
 1 5 10 15

Gly Asp Val Met Leu Asp Arg Tyr Trp Tyr Gly Pro Thr Ser Arg Ile  
 20 25 30

Ser Pro Glu Ala Pro Val Pro Val Val Lys Val Asn Thr Ile Glu Glu  
 35 40 45

Arg Pro Gly Gly Ala Ala Asn Val Ala Met Asn Ile Ala Ser Leu Gly  
 50 55 60

Ala Asn Ala Arg Leu Val Gly Leu Thr Gly Ile Asp Asp Ala Ala Arg  
 65 70 75 80

Ala Leu Ser Lys Ser Leu Ala Asp Val Asn Val Lys Cys Asp Phe Val  
 85 90 95

Ser Val Pro Thr His Pro Thr Ile Thr Lys Leu Arg Val Leu Ser Arg  
 100 105 110

Asn Gln Gln Leu Ile Arg Leu Asp Phe Glu Glu Gly Phe Glu Gly Val  
 115 120 125

Asp Pro Gln Pro Leu His Glu Arg Ile Asn Gln Ala Leu Ser Ser Ile  
 130 135 140

Gly Ala Leu Val Leu Ser Asp Tyr Ala Lys Gly Ala Leu Ala Ser Val  
 145 150 155 160

Gln Gln Met Ile Gln Leu Ala Arg Lys Ala Gly Val Pro Val Leu Ile  
 165 170 175

Asp Pro Lys Gly Thr Asp Phe Glu Arg Tyr Arg Gly Ala Thr Leu Leu  
 180 185 190

Thr Pro Asn Leu Ser Glu Phe Glu Ala Val Val Gly Lys Cys Lys Thr  
 195 200 205

Glu Glu Glu Ile Val Glu Arg Gly Met Lys Leu Ile Ala Asp Tyr Glu  
 210 215 220

Leu Ser Ala Leu Leu Val Thr Arg Ser Glu Gln Gly Met Ser Leu Leu

<210>	14
<211>	420
<212>	PRT

&lt;213&gt; Escherichia coli

&lt;400&gt; 14

Met Leu Lys Arg Leu Gly Lys Val Phe Gly Pro Leu Val Cys Ala Leu  
1 5 10 15

Leu Leu Leu Val Gly Leu Tyr Leu Val Phe Pro Val Ser Gln Pro His  
20 25 30

His Leu Gly Lys Glu Lys Asn Ser Ala Val Ala Leu Thr Lys Ala Gly  
35 40 45

Phe Lys Ser Arg Val Gln Lys Val Arg Ala Phe Ser Asp Pro Lys Ala  
50 55 60

Asn Phe Val Pro Phe Phe Gly Ser Ser Glu Trp Leu Arg Phe Asp Ala  
65 70 75 80

Met His Pro Ser Val Leu Ala Glu Ala Tyr Lys Arg Pro Tyr Ile Pro  
85 90 95

Tyr Leu Leu Gly Gln Lys Gly Ala Ala Ser Leu Thr Gln Tyr Tyr Gly  
100 105 110

Ile Gln Gln Ile Lys Gly Gln Ile Lys Asn Lys Lys Ala Ile Tyr Val  
115 120 125

Ile Ser Pro Gln Trp Phe Val Arg Lys Gly Ala Asn Lys Gly Ala Phe  
130 135 140

Gln Asn Tyr Phe Ser Asn Asp Gln Thr Ile Arg Phe Leu Gln Asn Gln  
145 150 155 160

Thr Gly Thr Thr Tyr Asp Arg Tyr Ala Ala Arg Arg Leu Leu Lys Leu  
165 170 175

Tyr Pro Glu Ala Ser Met Ser Asp Leu Ile Glu Lys Val Ala Asp Gly  
180 185 190

Gln Lys Leu Ser Asn Lys Asp Lys Gln Arg Leu Lys Phe Asn Asp Trp  
195 200 205

Val Phe Glu Lys Thr Asp Ala Ile Phe Ser Tyr Leu Pro Leu Gly Lys  
210 215 220

Thr Tyr Asn Gln Val Ile Met Pro His Val Gly Lys Leu Pro Lys Ala  
225 230 235 240

Phe Ser Tyr Asn His Leu Ser Arg Ile Ala Ser Gln Asp Ala Lys Val  
245 250 255

Ala Thr Arg Ser Asn Gln Phe Gly Ile Asp Asp Arg Phe Tyr Gln Thr  
260 265 270

Arg Ile Lys Lys His Leu Lys Lys Leu Lys Gly Ser Gln Arg His Phe  
275 280 285

Asn Tyr Thr Lys Ser Pro Glu Phe Asn Asp Leu Gln Leu Val Leu Asn  
290 295 300

Glu Phe Ser Lys Gln Asn Thr Asp Val Leu Phe Val Ile Pro Pro Val  
305 310 315 320

Asn Lys Lys Trp Thr Asp Tyr Thr Gly Leu Asp Gln Lys Met Tyr Gln  
325 330 335

Lys Ser Val Glu Lys Ile Lys His Gln Leu Gln Ser Gln Gly Phe Asn  
340 345 350

His Ile Ser Asp Leu Ser Arg Asp Gly Gly Lys Pro Tyr Phe Met Gln  
355 360 365

Asp Thr Ile His Leu Gly Trp Asn Gly Trp Leu Glu Leu Asp Lys His  
370 375 380

Ile Asn Pro Phe Leu Thr Glu Glu Asn Ser Lys Pro Asn Tyr His Ile  
385 390 395 400

Asn Asn Lys Phe Leu Lys Arg Ser Trp Ala Lys Tyr Thr Gly Arg Pro  
405 410 415

Ser Asp Tyr Lys  
420

<210> 15  
<211> 511  
<212> PRT  
<213> Escherichia coli  
<400> 15

Met Ile His Asp Met Ile Lys Thr Ile Glu His Phe Ala Glu Thr Gln  
1 5 10 15

Ala Asp Phe Pro Val Tyr Asp Ile Leu Gly Glu Val His Thr Tyr Gly  
20 25 30

Gln Leu Lys Val Asp Ser Asp Ser Leu Ala Ala His Ile Asp Ser Leu  
35 40 45

Gly Leu Val Glu Lys Ser Pro Val Leu Val Phe Gly Gly Gln Glu Tyr  
50 55 60

Glu Met Leu Ala Thr Phe Val Ala Leu Thr Lys Ser Gly His Ala Tyr  
 65 70 75 80  
 Ile Pro Val Asp Gln His Ser Ala Leu Asp Arg Ile Gln Ala Ile Met  
 85 90 95  
 Thr Val Ala Gln Pro Ser Leu Ile Ile Ser Ile Gly Glu Phe Pro Leu  
 100 105 110  
 Glu Val Asp Asn Val Pro Ile Leu Asp Val Ser Gln Val Ser Ala Ile  
 115 120 125  
 Phe Glu Glu Lys Thr Pro Tyr Glu Val Thr His Ser Val Lys Gly Asp  
 130 135 140  
 Asp Asn Tyr Tyr Ile Ile Phe Thr Ser Gly Thr Thr Gly Leu Pro Lys  
 145 150 155 160  
 Gly Val Gln Ile Ser His Asp Asn Leu Leu Ser Phe Thr Asn Trp Met  
 165 170 175  
 Ile Ser Asp Asp Glu Phe Ser Val Pro Glu Arg Pro Gln Met Leu Ala  
 180 185 190  
 Gln Pro Pro Tyr Ser Phe Asp Leu Ser Val Met Tyr Trp Ala Pro Thr  
 195 200 205  
 Leu Ala Met Gly Gly Thr Leu Phe Ala Leu Pro Lys Thr Val Val Asn  
 210 215 220  
 Asp Phe Lys Lys Leu Phe Ala Thr Ile Asn Glu Leu Pro Ile Gln Val  
 225 230 235 240  
 Trp Thr Ser Thr Pro Ser Phe Ala Asp Met Ala Leu Leu Ser Asn Asp  
 245 250 255  
 Phe Asn Ser Glu Thr Leu Pro Gln Leu Thr His Phe Tyr Phe Asp Gly  
 260 265 270  
 Glu Glu Leu Thr Val Lys Thr Ala Gln Lys Leu Arg Gln Arg Phe Pro  
 275 280 285  
 Lys Ala Arg Ile Val Asn Ala Tyr Gly Pro Thr Glu Ala Thr Val Ala  
 290 295 300  
 Leu Ser Ala Val Ala Ile Thr Asp Glu Met Leu Glu Thr Cys Lys Arg  
 305 310 315 320  
 Leu Pro Ile Gly Tyr Thr Lys Asp Asp Ser Pro Thr Tyr Val Ile Asp



325

330

335

Glu Glu Gly His Lys Leu Pro Asn Gly Glu Gln Gly Glu Ile Ile Ile  
 340 345 350

Ala Gly Pro Ala Val Ser Lys Gly Tyr Leu Asn Asn Pro Glu Lys Thr  
 355 360 365

Ala Glu Ala Phe Phe Gln Phe Glu Gly Leu Pro Ala Tyr His Thr Gly  
 370 375 380

Asp Leu Gly Ser Met Thr Asp Glu Gly Leu Leu Leu Tyr Gly Gly Arg  
 385 390 395 400

Met Asp Phe Gln Ile Lys Phe Asn Gly Tyr Arg Ile Glu Leu Glu Asp  
 405 410 415

Val Ser Gln Asn Leu Asn Lys Ser Gln Tyr Val Lys Ser Ala Val Ala  
 420 425 430

Val Pro Arg Tyr Asn Lys Asp His Lys Val Gln Asn Leu Leu Ala Tyr  
 435 440 445

Ile Val Leu Lys Glu Gly Val Arg Asp Asp Phe Glu Arg Asp Leu Asp  
 450 455 460

Leu Thr Lys Ala Ile Lys Glu Asp Leu Lys Asp Ile Met Met Asp Tyr  
 465 470 475 480

Met Met Pro Ser Lys Phe Ile Tyr Arg Glu Asp Leu Pro Leu Thr Pro  
 485 490 495

Asn Gly Lys Ile Asp Ile Lys Gly Leu Met Ser Glu Val Asn Lys  
 500 505 510

&lt;210&gt; 16

&lt;211&gt; 919

&lt;212&gt; DNA

&lt;213&gt; Escherichia coli

&lt;400&gt; 16

gccgcactc actgatgcc agcaggcaat cccagggatt aagtttgact ggggtggtgga 60  
 agaaggggttc gcacagattc cttcctggca cgctgccgtt gagcgagtta ttctgtggc 120  
 aatacgtcgc tggcgtaaag cctggttctc ggccccata aaagctgaac gcaaagcggt 180  
 tcgtgaagcg ctacaagcag agaactatga cgcagttatc gacgctcagg ggctggtaaa 240  
 aagcgcgga ctggtgacac gtctggcgca tggcgtaaag catggattgg actggcaaac 300  
 cgctcgcgaa cctttagcca gcctgtttta caattgtaag catcatattg caaaacagca 360  
 gcacgccgta gaacgcaccc gcgaactggt tgccaaaagt ttgggctata gcaaaccgca 420

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aaccagggc gattatgcta tcgcacagca ttttctgacg aacctgccta cagatgctgg 480
cgaatatgcc gtatttcttc atgcgacgac ccgtgatgat aaacactggc cggaagaaca 540
ctggcgagaa ttgattgggt tactggctga ttcaggaata cggattaaac ttccgtgggg 600
cgcgccgcat gaggaagaac gggcgaaacg actggcgga ggaatttgctt atgttgaagt 660
attgccgaag atgagtcctgg aaggcgttgc ccgctgctg gccggggcta aatttgtagt 720
gtcgggtgat acgggggttaa gccatttaac ggcggcactg gatagacca atatcacggt 780
ttatggacca accgatccgg gattaattgg tgggtatggg aagaatcaga tggttttagt 840
ggctccgggg aatgagttgt ctcaattgac agcaaagtct gttaagcggg tcattgaaga 900
aaacgctgcc atgatttaa 919

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<210> 17
<211> 1023
<212> DNA
<213> Escherichia coli
<400> 17

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atgcgttttc atggggatat gttattaact actcccgctca ttagttcgct gaaaaaaaaat 60
taccctgacg caaaaatcga tgtgctgctt tatcaggaca ccatcccgat cctgtctgaa 120
aatccagaga ttaacgcgct ctacggcata aaaaataaaa aagcaaaagc ctcaaaaaa 180
attgccaact tttttcatct catcaaggta ttacgtgcca ataagtatga ccttatcgctc 240
aatctcaccg atcaatggat ggttgctata ctggttcgct tattaaatgc ccgtgtgaaa 300
atttcccagg attatcatca tcggcagctc gctttttggc gtaaaagttt caccatttg 360
gtgccgttgc aggggtggaaa tgtggtggaa agtaacttat ccgtgctgac ccattggga 420
gttgattcgt tgggtgaagca gacaaccatg agttaccgc ctgcaagctg gaaacgatg 480
cgtcgcgaac ttgatcacgc tgggtgttga caaaattatg tggttatcca acctacggcg 540
cggcaaatct tcaaagtctg ggacaacgcc aagttttccg ctgtgattga tgccttacat 600
gctcgtggtt atgaagttgt tctgacgtcc ggcccagata aagacgatct ggctgctgc 660
aatgaaattg cgcagggatg ccagacgcca ccagtaacgg cgctggctgg aaaggtgacc 720
ttcccgaac ttggtgctgt aatcgatcat gcgcagctgt ttattggcgt tgattccgca 780
ccggcgcata ttgccgctgc agttaatacg ccgctgatat cgctgttttg tgcgacagac 840
catattttct ggcgctccctg gtcaaataac atgattcaat tctgggcggg agattaccgg 900
gaaatgccaa cgcgcgatca gcgtgaccga aatgagatgt atctttcggg tattccggcg 960
gcagatgtca ttgctgctgt cgataaatta ctgccctcct ccacgacagg tacgtcgtta 1020
tga 1023

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<210> 18
<211> 798
<212> DNA

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&lt;213&gt; Escherichia coli

&lt;400&gt; 18

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atggttgaac ttaaagagcc gtttgccacg ttatggcgcg gcaaagatcc ttttgaggaa      60
gttaaaacct tgcaggggtga ggtattttcgt gaactggaaa ctcgccgtac tctgcgcttt      120
gaaatggcgg gcaaaagcta ttttctcaaa tggcatcgcg gcacgacct gaaagagata      180
atcaaaaatt tactctcatt gcggatgcc a gtattaggcg ctgaccgca atggaatgcg      240
attcatcgac tgcgggatgt cggcgttgat actatgtatg ggggtggcatt tggcgaaaaa      300
ggcatgaatc cgctgaccag aacttcattt attattaccg aagatctgac accaaccata      360
agtctggaag attactgtgc tgactgggcg actaaccctc cagatgttcg cgtaaagcgt      420
atgcttatta agcgtgtcgc gacgatgggtg cgcgatatgc atgctgcggg cattaaccac      480
cgtgactgtt atatctgtca tttcctgctg cacttgccct tttccggtaa ggaagaggag      540
ttaaaaattt cggttaattga cctgcaccgg gcgcagcttc gcacgcgcgt tccacgtcgt      600
tggcgggata aagatcttat tgggctttat ttttcttcga tgaatatcgg cctgactcag      660
cgggatatct ggcggtttat gaaagtgtat tttgccgcc cgcttaaaga cattctcaag      720
caggaacaag gactgctgtc gcaagcagaa gcaaaagcca caaaaatcag ggaaagaacg      780
attcgaaaaat cgttgtaa                                     798

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&lt;210&gt; 19

&lt;211&gt; 1125

&lt;212&gt; DNA

&lt;213&gt; Escherichia coli

&lt;400&gt; 19

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atgatcgttg ctttttgttt atataaatat tttccctttg gcggtttgca gcgcgatttt      60
atgcgtattg ctcagacagt cgcgcgccga ggtcatcatg ttcgggttta taccagtcg      120
tggaaggcg aatgccctga tgtatttgaa ctgatcaaag tgccgggttaa atcgcatacc      180
aatcacgggc gcaatgcgga gtattttgcc tgggtgcaaa aacatttacg cgaacatccc      240
gtcgataaag tcgttggtatt caacaaaatg ccggggcttg acgtttatta tgccgctgat      300
gtttgttatg ccgagaaagt agcgcaggaa aaaggctttt tctatcgctt gacgtcacgt      360
tatcgccatt atgccgcctt tgagcgggca accttcgaac agggcaagcc gacacagctg      420
ctgatgctga cagataagca aatcgccgat ttccagaaac attatcagac tgaagcggag      480
cgttttcata ttctgccacc ggggatttat cctgatcgta aatatagcca gcagccagcc      540
aatagccgtg aaatcttccg taagaagaat ggaataaccg aacaacaata tttattgttg      600
caggtcgggt cagacttcac gcgtaaaggt gtcgatcggt ccattgaagc acttgcttcg      660
ttaccggatt cgctgcgcca caacacattg ctatatgttg ttgggcagga taaaccgca      720
aaatttgagg cactggcaga aaaacgcggc gtgcgcagta atgttcaact cttctcgggg      780
cgcaacgatg tctcggaatt aatggcggcg gcggatttat tactgcatcc tgcctaccag      840

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gaagcggcgg gaattgtgct gctggaagcg attactgcag gattaccggg actaacaact 900  
gccgtttgtg gctatgcgca ttatattgtc gacgctaatt gcggcgagggc tattgctgag 960  
ccattccgcc aggaaacatt gaatgagatt ttacgcaaag cgtaaacgca atcttcattg 1020  
cgccaggcctt gggcggaaaa tgcgcgacat tatgctgata cacaagattt atacagtctg 1080  
ccagagaaaag cggcggatat cataacgggt ggtctggatg gttga 1125

<210> 20  
<211> 1047  
<212> DNA  
<213> Escherichia coli  
<400> 20

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tategcaogc tccaggcgcg ctatccccag gcgataatcg atgtgatggc accggcatgg 120  
tgccgtccat tattatcgcg gatgccggaa gttaacgaag ctattcctat gcctctcggg 180  
cacggagcgc tggaaatcgg cgaacgccgc aaactgggtc atagcctgcg tgaaaagcgc 240  
tacgaccgcg cctacgtctt acccaactcc ttcaaactctg cattagtgcc tttcttcgcg 300  
ggatttcctc atcgcacggg ctggcgcggc gagatgcgct acgggtttact caacgatgta 360  
cgcggtgctcg ataaagaagc ctggccgcta atggtggaac gctatatagc gctggcctat 420  
gacaaaggca ttatgcgcac agcacaagat ctgccgcagc cattgttatg gccgcagttg 480  
caggtgagcg aaggtgaaaa atcatatacc tgtaatcaat tttcgctttc atcagaacgt 540  
ccgatgattg gtttttgccc ggggtgcggag tttggtccgg caaaacgctg gccacactac 600  
cactatgcgg agctggcaaa gcagctgatt gatgaagggt atcaggtggg tctgtttggc 660  
tcggcgaaaag atcatgaagc gggcaatgag attcttgccg ctttgaatac cgagcagcag 720  
gcatggtgtc ggaacctggc gggggaaaca cagcttgatc aagcggttat cctgattgca 780  
gcctgtaaaag ccattgtcac taacgattct ggctgatgc atgttgcggc ggcgctcaat 840  
cgcccgctgg ttgccctgta tgggtccgagt agcccgact tcacaccgcc gctatcccat 900  
aaagcgcgcg tgatccgttt gattaccggc tatcaciaag tgcgtaaagg tgacgctgcg 960  
gagggttatc accagagctt aatcgacatt actccccagc gcgtactgga agaactcaac 1020  
gcgctattgt tacaagagga agcctga 1047

<210> 21  
<211> 1017  
<212> DNA  
<213> Escherichia coli  
<400> 21

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ctttttgggt gtggtgtttc aatcacgtca gttttgttac ataacaacga cgtgagtttt 180

gttttccacg tttttattga tgatatccct gaagccgata tccagcgttt agcccaattg 240  
gcgaaaagct atcgtaacctg tatccagatc catctagtaa attgtgaacg gcttaaggca 300  
ttaccgacga ccaaaaattg gtctattgcc atgtatttcc gttttgtaat tgcagattac 360  
tttattgatc aacaagataa gatcctttac ctggatgctg atatcgctg tcagggaac 420  
ttaaagccgc tgataacaat ggatcttgcc aataacgttg ctgctgttgt tactgaacgc 480  
gatgctaact ggtggctcgtt acgggggtcaa agtctgcagt gtaatgaact tgaaaagggt 540  
tactttaatt cagggtgtcct gttaattaat acactagcgt gggcgcagga gtccgtttct 600  
gctaaagcga tgtcgatgct tgctgataaa gccatcgttt cccgtttaac ctatatggat 660  
caagatatcc ttaatcttat cctgttaggg aaagttaaatt tcattgatgc taaatacaat 720  
acgcaattta gtttaaatta tgaattaaaa aaatcatttg tttgtccaat taatgatgaa 780  
accgtattaa ttcattatgt cggcccgaca aaaccctggc attactgggc cggttatcca 840  
agtgcgcaac cttttatcaa agccaaagaa gcatcgccct ggaaaaatga accgttaatg 900  
cggccagtta actcaaacta tgctcgttat tgcgccaagc ataattttaa acaaaacaaa 960  
ccaattaacg ggataatgaa ttatatattt tattttttatt taaagataat aaaatga 1017

<210> 22  
<211> 909  
<212> DNA  
<213> Escherichia coli  
<400> 22

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aggatgttgc cggcgacgaa agccatcccg aaagagatgc tgccacttgt cgataagcca 120  
ttaattcaat acgtcgtgaa tgaatgtatt gcggctggca ttactgaaat tgtgctgggt 180  
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<211> 1677  
<212> DNA  
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<400> 24

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<213> Escherichia coli

&lt;400&gt; 25

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caatcatatc caatattagg taatgatatt gcagacatcg agaataagga taattattat      180
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ctgggtgatg gaattttttat tggtaaaatg tgtatactta accgtgatac tagaatacat      360
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gttggttagcg tgactgttgt aaatggccag ttgaagctag gctcaaagag tattattggg      540
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```

&lt;210&gt; 26

&lt;211&gt; 576

&lt;212&gt; DNA

&lt;213&gt; Escherichia coli

&lt;400&gt; 26

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&lt;210&gt; 27

&lt;211&gt; 933

&lt;212&gt; DNA

&lt;213&gt; Escherichia coli

&lt;400&gt; 27

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atggctggcg aagagttcgg cgatgtcgaa gcgattttcc acgaaggcgc gtgctcttcc      240

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 <211> 1434  
 <212> DNA  
 <213> Escherichia coli  
 <400> 28

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 gttaaagtga ataccatcga agaacgtccg ggcggcgcgg ctaacgtggc gatgaatata 180  
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 ctgagttcga ttggcgcgct ggtgctttct gactacgcca aaggtagcgt ggcaagcgta 480  
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<213> Escherichia coli  
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<211> 1536  
 <212> DNA  
 <213> Escherichia coli  
 <400> 30

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 <212> DNA  
 <213> Escherichia coli  
 <400> 31

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<210> 32  
<211> 60  
<212> DNA  
<213> Escherichia coli  
<400> 32

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